



PRESS RELEASE

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GCWW Monitoring Ohio River after Crude Oil Spill in West Virginia

Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) is carefully monitoring the Ohio River and taking all necessary precautions as a result of a crude oil spill on Monday, February 16, 2015 in southern West Virginia.

GCWW is working with other agencies to determine how much, if any, oil was released into the Kanawha River, and whether it will even make it to the Ohio River. The Kanawha River feeds into the Ohio River. The derailment occurred about 285 miles upstream of Cincinnati.

If oil spilled into the Kanawha River, the spill would not be expected to reach the Cincinnati area until mid to late next week. GCWW has the ability to detect for the oil and shut its water intakes if necessary.

The crude oil spilled as the result of a train derailment in Fayette County, Va. southeast of Charleston. The train was carrying crude oil from the Bakken shale formation in North Dakota to Yorktown, Va. for refinement into petroleum products.

“The safety of our drinking water is the highest priority,” said James A. “Tony” Parrott, Executive Director of GCWW and the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD). “As always, our primary objective is to protect our water supply.”

GCWW is working closely with the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) and other organizations to track the spill and conduct source water sampling to keep our water safe. ORSANCO uses 16 monitoring stations along the Ohio River to detect and warn treatment plants downstream about spills so they can take precautionary measures before the spill reaches their intakes.

GCWW has the capability to shut down its water intakes as a precautionary measure and use water stored in large reservoirs. If needed, GCWW can also supplement its water supply from other sources. GCWW also has the ability to remove oil from the water using a multi-barrier approach including Granular Activated Carbon (GAC).

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